



City of Grand Rapids

Fire Department names new deputy chief

11/08/17: GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – On Tuesday, November 7, the Grand Rapids Fire Department (GRFD) promoted Battalion Chief Ronald G. Tennant to the position of Deputy Fire Chief, support services.

Deputy Chief Tennant began his career with the GRFD in 1985. He has held the positions of firefighter, fire equipment operator, fire lieutenant, fire captain, acting assistant training supervisor, acting fire training supervisor, battalion chief, and has been in a long-term acting assignment in the position to which he is promoted.

“Chief Tennant went into this position, he kept the ship moving forward and he advanced the position creating new areas taking it to a higher level,” Fire Chief John Lehman said. “He has definitely proven himself as somebody I welcome into my command staff.”

Upon receiving his badge and brass, Chief Tennant replied, “My honor Sir, I humbly accept the position and appreciate your confidence.”

Addressing the staff in attendance Chief Tennant said, “This is certainly a team effort and I really appreciate your support that all of you have shown. I couldn’t have done anything without the help with everyone here and plus some. I will continue to rely on that.”

Deputy Chief Tennant earned an AAS in Fire Science in 1990. He holds two EMS licenses and is a certified instructor in firefighting, hazardous materials, EMS and fire leadership courses.

His duties include oversight of the Support Services Division for the Grand Rapids Fire Department which includes oversight of the fire marshal, the Building and Fleet Division, Administrative office staff, and over 30 individual fire department programs.

Outside of our department, DC Tennant has served as an adjunct instructor with the MSP Hazmat Training Center. He currently co-chairs the Governors Traffic Safety Advisory Commission Traffic Incident Management Action Team. He has also volunteered with the Coopersville & Marne Railroad and has been very active with his church.

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